

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-101 (Canceled)

102. (Currently Amended) An organ manipulation apparatus comprising:

a suction member configured to exert sufficient force on an organ to move the organ when the suction member is placed against the organ, a relative negative pressure is established in a space between the suction member and the organ, and the suction member is moved;

a compliant seal around a perimeter of said suction member, said compliant seal being substantially C-shaped in cross section and deformable to conform to the shape of a surface of the organ upon contact therewith, the C-shape of said compliant seal being formed around a space, wherein said seal compresses when contacted to tissue such that portions of the C-shaped seal move toward one another reducing the volume of the space;

a support structure adapted to be substantially rigidly fixed to a relatively immovable object; and

a suspension interconnecting said suction member and said support structure, said suspension allowing at least a limited amount movement of said suction member with respect to said support member to accommodate natural movements of the organ.

103. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 102, wherein said compliant seal comprises a silicone gasket.

104. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 102, wherein said compliant seal is mechanically interlocked with said suction member.

105. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 102, wherein said compliant seal is bonded to said suction member.

106. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 102, wherein said compliant seal is integrally molded with said suction member.

107. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 102, wherein said suction member comprises a cup-shaped member.

108. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 102, wherein said suction member comprises silicone.

109. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 102, wherein said support structure comprises an articulating arm having a flexible state and a rigid state.

110. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 102, wherein said suspension allows at least a limited amount of rotation of said suction member with respect to said support member to accommodate natural movements of the organ.

111. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 102, wherein said suspension allows a limited amount of translation of said suction member, along an axis of said suction member, with respect to said support structure.

112. (Currently Amended) A member for use in an organ manipulation apparatus, configured to exert sufficient force on an organ to move the organ when the member is placed against the organ and affixed thereto, said member comprising:

a suction member adapted to establish a relative negative pressure in a space between said suction member and the organ when said suction member is contacted with a surface of the organ; and

a compliant seal around a perimeter of said suction member, said compliant seal being substantially C-shaped in cross section and deformable to conform to the shape of a surface of the organ upon contact therewith, the C-shape of said compliant seal comprising an opening leading into a space, said opening facing an external environment of said member.

113. (Previously Presented) The member of claim 112, wherein said suction member comprises a cup-shaped member.